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VIOLATION OF LIMITS BY C.I.A. IS ADMITTED

Turner Reports Press, Professors
and Clergy Were Used to Spy
Despite Policy Against It

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Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26 — The Carter Administration, which is resisting a legal prohibition against the use of journalists, clergymen and professors as spies, has conceded that it has already engaged in such practices although its own policy has forbidden them since 1977.

Adm. Stansfield Turner, the Director of Central Intelligence, testified last week before the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence that "in very limited occasions" he had waived provisions of his own policy directives against the use of individuals from these groups by the Central Intelligence Agency.

Representative Les Aspin, Democrat of Wisconsin, yesterday sent Admiral Turner a letter asking for more details, including a list of "all exceptions" granted to the directive against the use of journalists in conducting intelligence activities. Mr. Aspin is chairman of the Oversight Subcommittee of the House Select Intelligence Committee.

Admiral Turner's testimony appeared to reopen a controversy that was ostensibly closed when he issued a policy directive on Nov. 30, 1977. The directive said the Central Intelligence Agency "will not enter into any relationships" with either full-time or part-time journalists "for the purpose of conducting any intelligence activities."

Directive Bars Use of Cover

The so-called "Turner directive" also forbade the agency to use "the name or facilities of any U.S. news media organization to provide cover" for its agents or actions.

Senator Walter D. Huddleston, Democrat of Kentucky, included prohibitions against such actions in the draft of a National Intelligence Act that he proposed earlier this month. But last Thursday Admiral Turner objected to the inclusion of the prohibitions in the law, saying that some circumstances may warrant the use of journalists, clergymen and academics, or their institutions, as cover.

The Director's written testimony added that "on rare occasions" he had granted waivers of the "general prohibitions against the use of these groups." In delivering this testimony orally he changed the wording to say he had granted waivers "on very limited occasions."

Herbert Hetu, the C.I.A.'s press spokesman, today declined to offer clarification of Admiral Turner's testimony or to say whether the waivers involved the press, clergy and academics, or only one or two of those categories. Mr. Hetu said that Admiral Turner would be "straightening out this matter" in testimony tomorrow before the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence. However, that testimony will be in closed session.

Reassurance by Turner

In testifying before Representative Aspin's subcommittee in April of 1973, Admiral Turner expressed what he called "the strongest reassurance" that the exception would be used "only under the most extraordinary circumstances." He also said the Congressional intelligence committees "would be in a position to inquire into such exceptions."

Mr. Aspin said the House committee had never been informed of the admiral's waivers. Informed Senate sources said the Senate committee had not been informed either.